REMARKS

Each independent claim 1, 8 and 15 emphasizes that the RF reader interrogates a "resonant" element associated with a target "by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element", and reads RF data "by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element".

As shown in Fig. 1 and as described in the specification, the instant invention relates, among other things, to a tag reader for activating an RF resonator such as quartz crystals or dipoles, and for detecting the RF response characteristics of the resonant element. This feature is not shown in the applied art.

Allowance of claims 1-19, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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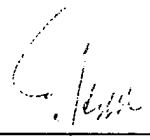

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1, 8 & 15

1. (Amended) A data collection module, comprising:

a) a support having a predetermined form factor;

b) a radio frequency (RF) reader supported by the support, and operative for interrogating an RF resonant element associated with a target by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element, and for reading RF data relating to the target from the interrogated element by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element; and

c) a magnetic stripe reader supported by the support, and operative for sensing magnetically encoded data in a stripe on a card, and for reading the encoded data.

8. A data collection terminal, comprising:

a) a hand-held housing;

b) a support supported by the housing and having a predetermined form factor;

c) a radio frequency (RF) reader supported by the support, and operative for interrogating an RF resonant element associated with a target by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element, and for reading RF data relating to the target from the interrogated element by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element; and

d) a magnetic stripe reader supported by the support, and operative for sensing magnetically encoded data in a stripe on a card, and for reading the encoded data.

15. A data collection method, comprising the steps of:

a) supporting a radio frequency (RF) reader on a support having a predetermined form factor;

b) interrogating an RF resonant element associated with a target by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element, and for reading RF data relating to the target from the interrogated element by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element; and

c) supporting a magnetic stripe reader supported on the support; and

d) sensing magnetically encoded data in a stripe on a card, and reading the encoded data.